

## Teaching with Authority



*The people were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike the teachers of religious law. --[Mark 1:21](#)*

In the time of Jesus, Jewish teachers often focused on the fine details of legal interpretation. They wanted the people to understand, for example, exactly how they must wash their hands in order to follow the Jewish law. Moreover, these teachers would support their conclusions by quoting from

other, earlier teachers. Even their verbal teaching included the sort of material we would find in academic footnotes.

It's no wonder, therefore, that people were amazed by the teaching of Jesus. He spoke plainly of the approaching reign of God, calling people to turn their lives around in response to this good news (for example, [Mark 1:15](#)). Jesus taught, not in the mode of the rabbis of his day, but in the dynamic, confident voice of the prophets. Yet he did not preface his instruction with "Thus saith the Lord." Rather, Jesus spoke with the Lord's own authority. *Theologyofwork.org*



## MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

### MONDAY, February 1

Heb 11:32-40/Mk 5:1-20

7:00 AM The Youth of our Parish

12:30 PM Bill Brown

### TUESDAY, February 2

Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

7:00 AM Parishioners of the Parish

5:00 PM Michael Clifford

### WEDNESDAY, February 3

Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Mk 6:1-6

7:00 AM All Those Affected by COVID-19

12:30 PM Rita V. Schaffer

### THURSDAY, February 4

Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Mk 6:7-13

7:00 AM Parishioners of the Parish

5:00 PM Charles Denecour

### FRIDAY, February 5

Heb 13:1-8/Mk 6:14-29

7:00 AM All Clergy

9:00 AM The Youth of our Parish

12:30 PM James Coyman

### SATURDAY, February 6

Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Mk 6:30-34

8:00 AM Anthony Citro

4:30 PM Gloria Vale

### SUNDAY, February 7

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

### CHURCH

7:30 AM Conrad and Mary Sponberg

9:15 AM James Coyman

11:00 AM Parishioners of the Parish

### HALL

10:30 AM Bill Brown

12:00 PM Our Homebound Parishioners

5:00 PM Parishioners of the Parish



Online Giving

*Please continue to support our Parish with Online Giving. Go to our website to sign up. Call the Parish office if you would like assistance.*

*Thank you for all the envelopes you have been sending in each week! Offertory can be mailed to St. Mary Parish, 55 Catoonah St, Ridgefield, CT 06877. Mail is picked up daily. Thank you.*

**Sr. Joan Honorary Fund**  
*Helping Parishioners in Need*  
[Click here for more information](#)

## Contribution Tax Statements

Contribution Tax Statements will be mailed out in January 2021 to all Parishioners who contributed to our Parish Offertory this year. All contributions must have been received by December 31, 2020, in order to be acknowledged for 2020 tax status.

## Prayers for the Sick

Please pray for the sick on our online prayer list and for those who care for them. Pray also for those who died and those grieving loved ones.



[Click Here](#) to make a prayer request and to see those on the prayer list.



Check out the [latest pics](#) of our Gather & Grow progress.



Online Giving

## Time to Update Your Contributions

*If you are part of our Online Giving program, you can now go into your account and update your*

*2021 contributions: weekly offertory, special second collections and recurring monthly offerings such as Diocesan Hospitality House and Facilities and Repair, etc. If you are not part of the program, consider the convenience of Online Giving. Go to [www.smcr.org](http://www.smcr.org) under the Giving tab to sign up.*

## CALLING ALL COOKS!



Join our Dorothy Day House of Hospitality volunteers to occasionally prepare salads and/or a tray of food for the main course that we serve the third Sunday of each month. Please contact [mbreilly28@gmail.com](mailto:mbreilly28@gmail.com) if interested. Thank you!



## FAITH FORMATION CORNER

### Reflections on Divine Mercy

At times we are tempted to complain. When tempted to question God and His perfect love and perfect plan, know that this temptation is nothing more than that...a temptation. In the midst of that temptation to doubt and question God's love, renew your trust and abandon your self-pity. In this act you will find strength (See *Diary #25*).

What is it you have complained about the most this week? What most tempts you to be angry or annoyed? Has this temptation led to feelings of self-pity? Has it weakened your trust in God's perfect love? Reflect upon this temptation and see it as a means of growing in love and virtue. Often times our greatest struggle is a disguise for our greatest means of holiness.

Divinemercury.life /365 days with St. Faustina

## FAMILY, FAITH & HOME

### Jesus Grows Up

- 1) Read Luke 2:22-40.
- 2) What sort of son must Jesus have been to Mary & Joseph—helpful, cheerful, obedient?
- 3) Make a card for your father, thanking him for all he does for your family.
- 4) Listen to Come Thou Long Expected Jesus. One option of a performance by a group of siblings is [here](#).

## Parent Information Sessions

### Immaculate High School

Parents of students in grades 6-10 are invited to learn more about Immaculate High School during Catholic Schools Week. Please join us for a virtual information session with the Director of Admissions on either Monday, February 1 at 6:30 p.m. or Tuesday, February 2 at 8:00 a.m. Register at [www.immaculatehs.org/infosession](http://www.immaculatehs.org/infosession).



Saint Mary School  
RIDGEFIELD

### Before and After Care at SMS

Saint Mary School is happy to continue to offer both Before and After Care for our families. Preschool students can attend before care starting just after 7am each day, and Preschool-Grade 8 students can participate in after care until 5:30 pm when school is in session. We have made adjustments to policy to ensure adherence with COVID protocols and cohorting. Staff members oversee our extended day students and provide a combination of free play and organized activities. Not only does this offer a safe place for our students, they have become very connected to each other and our staff. It is reminiscent of having "neighborhood friends" of different ages.

*Saint Mary School is currently accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year. For more information, please contact Anna O'Rourke at (203) 438-7288, or visit [www.smsridgefield.org](http://www.smsridgefield.org).*



## ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY ZOOM from anywhere to join us on Saturday mornings!

We would love to have you join our dynamic MM meetings - [Link](#)



### 6:30-8:00 AM inspires us for the whole week!

The Men's Ministry is a regular group of guys that help each other to grow as men of prayer and together learn more about our Catholic faith. To help us all on our individual journeys, our group (and website [Stmmm.org](http://Stmmm.org)) offers resources to assist us in coping with what life throws at us thru a deeper faith, a more robust spiritual life, and friendly support network.



**MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

We offer Catholic men and their families an opportunity to explore their faith and share God's love through service to our priests, parish and community. Join 2 million Knights around the world as you share your time & talents. Learn more at [www.KOFC.org](http://www.KOFC.org) or contact Phil Del Giudice, Grand Knight, at [Compass\\_grp@yahoo.com](mailto:Compass_grp@yahoo.com).

**PILGRIM VIRGIN**

Our Lady's message to the world: Do penance, amend your life, offend God no more and pray the Rosary daily for world peace and the conversion of sinners.



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Adoration Chapel**

**OPEN DAILY**

**10:00 AM- 4:00 PM**

**Limited to 4 people at any one time**

If the 4 places are full, a visitor must wait outside or return at another time.

*Chairs and kneelers are safely distanced, and the air conditioning and air circulation system works well.*

**Please remember to wear a face mask**



A recent death, divorce or relocation may leave them feeling lonely. A hospitalization, cancer diagnosis or ongoing medical problem may leave them feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one's self esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support. If you know of someone going through a difficult time, talk to one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders, **Mary Ann O'Grady – 203-438-5610** or **Jack Hughes – 203-244-5228**. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They help bring the healing power of Christ's love.



**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday**

4:30 PM Vigil Mass (Gym)

**Sunday**

8:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM (Hall)

10:30 AM (Gym)

Registration Required

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

(Gym)

Monday, 12:30 PM

Tuesday, 5:00 PM

Wednesday, 12:30 PM

Thursday, 5:00 PM

Friday, 12:30 PM

No Registration Required

**Holy Days of Obligation**

Check website

\*Easter and Christmas have special schedules

**Our Mission:**

**LIVE** the gift of our faith, **ENRICH** our understanding of that gift, and **PRACTICE** our faith in compassionate service.

**OTHER SACRAMENTS**

**Drive-Up Confessions**

Tuesdays 4:15 PM

Saturdays 3:00 - 4:00 PM **(GYM)**

**Baptism**

Celebrated each Sunday (except holiday weekends)

*New parents must attend a pre-baptism class. Call Parish office to schedule both*

**Marriage**

Call Parish Office at least 9 months prior to wedding

**Anointing of Sick**

Call Parish Office to make arrangements  
*In case of serious illness or death in the family, call Parish Office immediately.*

**CEMETERY**

203-438-3606

**ADORATION**

Joanne Brown  
203-438-6538

**Pastor: Msgr. Kevin T. Royal**

[MsgrRoyal@smcr.org](mailto:MsgrRoyal@smcr.org)

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Damian K. Pielesz, [frdamian@smcr.org](mailto:frdamian@smcr.org)

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Lourduraj P., O. Praem., [frraj@smcr.org](mailto:frraj@smcr.org)

Deacon: Rick Lawlor, [dnlawlor@diobpt.org](mailto:dnlawlor@diobpt.org), 203-470-8084

Deacon: Robert Salvestrini, [salvo95@aol.com](mailto:salvo95@aol.com)

**Parish Office Hours:**

**Monday–Friday 10AM–4PM**

**203-438-6538**

Parish Office Building Closed

Parish Receptionist: Kim Macko, [kmacko@smcr.org](mailto:kmacko@smcr.org)

Parish Administrative Assistant: Joanne Brown, [jbrown@smcr.org](mailto:jbrown@smcr.org)

Accountant: Deborah Korniewicz, [dkorniewicz@smcr.org](mailto:dkorniewicz@smcr.org)

Facilities Scheduling: [Jbrown@smcr.org](mailto:Jbrown@smcr.org) & [kmacko@smcr.org](mailto:kmacko@smcr.org)

Communications Manager: Carolyn Haitzsch, [chaitzsch@smcr.org](mailto:chaitzsch@smcr.org)

Youth Minister: Brenner LeCompte, 203-438-2394,

[blecompte@smcr.org](mailto:blecompte@smcr.org)

Director of Music: Darren Motise, 203-438-6539, ext. 300,

[darren@smcr.org](mailto:darren@smcr.org)

Religious Ed: Laura Danner, [ldanner@smcr.org](mailto:ldanner@smcr.org)

Josephine Bove, [jbove@smcr.org](mailto:jbove@smcr.org)

St. Mary School: Anna O'Rourke, Principal,

[orourke@smsridgefield.org](mailto:orourke@smsridgefield.org)

Finance Council Chair: John Spera, [johnspera57@gmail.com](mailto:johnspera57@gmail.com)

Find us on FACEBOOK & TWITTER @ SMCRIDGEFIELD